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## Surveillance For Influenza-Like Illness In Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Division of Public Health (WDPH), Bureau of Communicable Diseases and Preparedness (BCDP), in conjunction with the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) maintains active surveillance for influenza activity in the state. Surveillance for influenza-like illness in Wisconsin incorporates both clinician diagnoses and laboratory testing and data.

Clinical surveillance for influenza is done through the Wisconsin Sentinel Clinician Program, part of the U.S. Sentinel Physician Surveillance Network, that is designed and implemented by the Influenza Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Wisconsin is one of 50 states and three major cities (New York City, Chicago and Washington D.C.) that use sentinel clinicians to report influenza-like illness (ILI) among patients seen. The 108 sentinel clinicians in the state are geographically chosen to provide a representative sample of patients in the state. ILI is described as the presence of fever  $\geq 100^{\circ}$  F (oral or equivalent) with cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. The BCDP uses data received from the CDC to monitor influenza activity nationwide and in Wisconsin.

In 1999, the BCDP began using sentinel provider data to calculate ILI percentages in each of the five public health regions of Wisconsin. Baseline and threshold levels of ILI are calculated for the state and each of the five public health regions utilizing historic data. ILI levels below baseline are considered low activity, levels between baseline and threshold are considered moderate activity, and levels above threshold indicate high ILI activity.

Location of Influenza Sentinel Clinicians in Wisconsin:

